

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 14 and 16 have been amended to recite proper claim language.

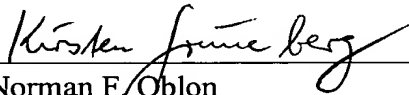
No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-16 will now be active in this application.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for examination on the merits and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Amended) [In a cell stack of a proton exchange fuel cell, said cell stack composed by laminating a plurality of unit cells and a plurality of separators, each of said unit cells composed of an anode electrode, a cathode electrode and a solid polymer electrolytic membrane arranged between said anode and cathode electrodes, each of said separators arranged between said unit cells, respectively, said] A separator of [said] a proton exchange fuel cell, comprising:

a separator substrate; and

a multi-coating layer formed on said separator substrate;

said multi-coating layer including at least two layers [of] selected from the group consisting of a low electric resistance layer, a corrosion resistance layer and a peeling resistance layer.

6. (Amended) [In a cell stack of a proton exchange fuel cell, said cell stack composed by laminating a plurality of unit cells and a plurality of separators, each of said unit cells composed of an anode electrode, a cathode electrode and a solid polymer electrolytic membrane arranged between said anode and cathode electrodes, each of said separators arranged between said unit cells, respectively, said separator of said proton exchange fuel cell including a separator substrate and a multi-coating layer formed on said separator substrate,

and said multi-coating layer including at least two layers of a low electric resistance layer, a corrosion resistance layer and a peeling resistance layer, a] A method of manufacturing [said] a separator of [said] a proton exchange fuel cell, comprising the steps of:

preparing [said] a separator substrate; and

forming [said] a multi-coating layer on said separator substrate by [one kind or a composite process of two or more kinds of] a process [processes], capable of forming a thin film, selected from the group consisting of a physical evaporation process, a chemical evaporation process, a nitride treating process, a boride treating process, a carbonizing process, a plating process and a spraying process.

14. (Amended) [In a cell stack of a proton exchange fuel cell, said cell stack composed by laminating a plurality of unit cells and a plurality of separators, each of said unit cells composed of an anode electrode, a cathode electrode and a solid polymer electrolytic membrane arranged between said anode and cathode electrodes, each of said separators arranged between said unit cells, respectively, said separator of said proton exchange fuel cell including a separator substrate and a multi-coating layer formed on said separator substrate, and said multi-coating layer including at least two layers of a low electric resistance layer, a corrosion resistance layer and a peeling resistance layer, a] A method of manufacturing [said] a separator of [said] a proton exchange fuel cell, comprising the steps of:

preparing [said] a separator substrate; and

forming [said] a multi-coating layer on said separator substrate by [one kind or a composite process of two or more kinds of] a process [processes], capable of forming a thin film, selected from the group consisting of a physical evaporation process, a chemical

evaporation process, a nitride treating process, a boride treating process, a carbonizing process, a plating process and a spraying process;

removing said multi-coating layer electrically, mechanically or chemically, so that said multi-coating layer and said separator substrate are individually recovered; and

reusing material of said recovered multi-coating layer in manufacturing said separator of said-proton exchange fuel cell.

16. (Amended) [The] A separator of a proton exchange fuel cell [according to one of claims 6-15, wherein:

said separator is manufactured by using said method of manufacturing said separator of said proton exchange fuel cell] prepared by the method according to one of claims 6[-15] or 14.--